

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03621 111657Z
ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

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PASS USPS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: UPU, ETEL, PORG, AORG
SUBJ: UPU: MEETING OF GENEVA GROUP UPU SUBGROUP IN BERN, MAY 6

REF: A. STATE 096417, B. STATE 095707

1. VERY SUCCESSFUL MEETING OF UPU SUBGROUP OF GENEVA
GROUP WAS HELD AT US EMBASSY BERN ON MAY 6.
S. FRIEDLAND OF US MISSION GENEVA ACTED AS CHAIRMAN;
MS. J. HOBBS OF UK SERVED AS RAPPORTEUR. ALL TWELVE
GG MEMBERS WERE REPRESENTED.

2. FOLLOWING IS REPORT OF DISCUSSION ARRANGED PER
AGENDA OF MEETING:

A. BUDGETS FOR 1977 AND 1978: JAPANESE REP NIKI
(CHAIRMAN OF EC FINANCE COMMITTEE) GAVE DETAILED REPORT
ON BUDGET AND MEMBERS SHARED GENERALLY
FAVORABLE US VIEW AS EXPRESSED REF A. US (STOCK)
SET FORTH SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL US COMMENTS PER REF A,
PARA ONE (A) (4) WHICH IT APPEARED SEVERAL EC MEMBERS
WOULD FOLLOW UP IN SESSIONS. BIGGEST SURPRISE UNDER
THIS ITEM, HOWEVER, WAS ANNOUNCEMENT (TO BE KEPT
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CONFIDENTIAL FOR TIME BEING) BY SWISS REP THAT SWILL
ADMINISTRATION IS FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT
TO CONTINUE TO ACT AS UPU'S BANKER. NOTE: AS DEPT
IS AWARE, GOS PROVIDES UPU WITH ALL FUNDS FOR FISCAL
YEAR; FOLLOWING YEAR UPU GETS BILL FROM GOS, BILLS
MEMBER STATES AND TURNS OVER PROCEEDS TO GOS; AFTER
THAT YEAR ELAPSES, IT IS UP TO SWISS TO COLLECT

ARREARAGES. END NOTE. ARREARAGES HAVE INCREASED AT ALARMING RATE IN RECENT YEARS (THEY NOW APPROACH SF THREE MILLION) AND CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION NO LONGER PERMITS GOS LUXURY OF INDEFINITELY CONTINUING FUNDING OF UPU. WHILE SWISS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED ON STRATEGY FOR CHANGE, IT WILL MAKE REQUEST OF IB AND EC TO STUDY MATTER SO THAT PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE MIGHT BE PRESENTED AT 1979 UPU CONGRESS. SWISS SAID THEY ARE NOT REQUESTING IMMEDIATE CHANGE AND THAT CHANGE-OVER COULD TAKE FIVE TO TEN YEARS, BUT THAT PRESENT SYSTEM SIMPLY COULD NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. COMMENT: MISSION SEES ONLY TWO POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION FOR UPU - (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING CAPITAL FUND OR (2) ITU-TYPE FINANCING, WHICH CALLS FOR PAYMENT IN ADVANCE. SINCE IMPLEMENTATION OF LATTER PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE A ONE-TIME TWO YEARS' PAYMENT IN ADVANCE, WE WOULD EXPECT MEMBERSHIP WOULD PREFER FORMER. END COMMENT. CONSIDERABLE CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED OVER THE ARREARAGES QUESTION AND FOR FIRST TIME, REPS WERE WILLING TO SPEAK FRANKLY ON THIS SUBJECT. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT REPS WOULD SUGGEST THEIR GOVERNMENTS SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUPPORTING AN ITU-TYPE SOLUTION, I.E. LOSS OF VOTE AFTER TWO YEARS' ARREARAGES AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED AT 1979 CONGRESS.

B. PROGRAM BUDGETTING: CANADIAN REP STRONGLY ENDORSED CONCEPT OF PROGRAM BUDGETTING AND SUPPORTED DG'S PROPOSAL TO STUDY MATTER FURTHER IN DEPTH. SUBGROUP ENDORSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS VIEW.

C. CURRENT STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS: US REP (FRIEDLAND) INFORMED SUBGROUP THAT NO MEMBER HAD INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS DURING 1976 AND THAT DG PLANNED TO BEGIN A CAMPAIGN IN 1978 TO PERSUADE MEMBERS TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTIONS PRIOR TO 1979 CONGRESS.

D. 1977 GG CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING: UK REP GAVE EXTENSIVE REPORT ON THIS MEETING WHICH WAS NOTED BY SUBGROUP.

E. ARGENTINE PROPOSAL: UK REP REPORTED THAT MATTER OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS BEING STUDIED BY A SMALL EC WORKING PARTY WHICH INCLUDES MEMBERSHIP OF FRG, NETHERLANDS AND UK AND QUESTION WAS WHETHER TO CONTINUE THIS GROUP OR BROADEN ITS MEMBERSHIP. THERE WAS ALSO PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE CCPS MEMBERS AS WELL AND HAVE WP MEETING DURING CCPS SESSIONS.

SUBGROUP SUPPORTED UK VIEW THAT PRESENT WP SHOULD CONTINUE SOLELY AS EC BODY, THAT MEMBERSHIP SHOULD REMAIN AS IS AND THAT CCPS SHOULD NOT GET INTO THE ACT.

F. NEW LANGUAGE SYSTEM FOR DOCUMENTS: UK REP REPORTED BRIEFLY THAT NEW SYSTEM WAS WORKING WELL AND INDEED, COSTS WERE LESS THAN ANTICIPATED. NO ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO INJECT ANY OTHER LANGUAGE ISSUES - SUCH AS INTRODUCTION OF OTHER WORKING LANGUAGES THAN FRENCY IN IB OR PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENTS IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN FRENCY, ENGLISH, SPANISH OR ARABIC.

G. TERRITORIAL MEMBERSHIP: FRG REP REPORTED ON YEARS DEVELOPMENTS - E.G. THAT US AND FRANCE HAD RENOUNCED TERRITORIAL MEMBERSHIP EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1978 AND THAT QUESTIONNAIRE IB HAD SENT OUT ON THIS SUBJECT HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCED ONLY 23 RESPONSES (15 PERCENT OF MEMBERSHIP). ACCORDINGLY, EC COMMITTEE WOULD RECOMMEND FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF MATTER BE DELAYED UNTIL MORE RESPONSES B

KJLED. UK REPORTED ON DIFFICULTIES RENUNCIATION WOULD CAUSE IT, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING HONG KONG AND CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES AND NETHERLANDS DEL READ STATEMENT FROM FOREIGN OFFICE THAT DUTCH DO NOT INTEND TO RENOUNCE UNTIL NETHERLANDS ANTILLES BECOMES INDEPENDENT, WHICH IS NOT EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER 1979 CONGRESS.

H. PERSONNEL: GENERAL DISCUSSION OF GS SALARY SITUATION TOOK PLACE. NOTE WAS TAKEN OF DDS SCOTT'S ASSERTION THAT IT WOULD TAKE SIX MAN-YEARS TO CONDUCT THOROUGH LOCAL WAGE SCALE SURVEY IN BERN AND THAT HE BELIEVED SURVEY WOULD INDICATE THAT DIFFERENCE IN COST OF LIVING WOULD BE LESS THAN COST OF SURVEY. SWISS REP CONFIRMED SCOTT'S STATEMENT THAT GOS PAYS SAME SALARIES TO CIVIL SERVANTS IN BOTH GENEVA AND BERN. RE P-5 POSITIONS, INASMUCH AS TWO CANDIDATES WERE AMONG SUBGROUP REPS AND SEVERAL OTHER SUBGROUP MEMBERS WERE SUPPORTING CANDIDATES OF THEIR OWN, IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED ADVISABLE TO DISCUSS THIS ITEM. SEE SEPTTEL RE TERMINATION IDEMNITY.

I. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: IT WAS AGREED THAT NEXT SUBGROUP MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE DURING FIRST WEEK OF 1978 EC, DURING TIME ALLOTTED FOR EC COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PRIOR TO FIRST PLENARY SESSION. EXACT DATE WILL BE DETERMINED BY CO-CHAIRMEN.

2. MISSION WILL SEND FULL MINUTES WHEN RECEIVED FROM
UK RAPPORTEUR.SORENSEN

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